

## Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 03595 01 OF 02 272235Z

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ACTION EUR-25

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P R 272153Z JUN 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6507

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 4177

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 3595

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: DPC MEETING JUNE 27, 1974: VIEWS OF THE ALLIANCE ON  
PROPOSED FUTURE NETHERLANDS FORCE STRUCTURE

REF: USNATO 3575

1. AT JUNE 27 MEETING, DPC AGREED ON UNCLASSIFIED TEXT OF ALLIANCE VIEWS ON THE DUTCH DEFENSE PLAN AND ON CLASSIFIED TEXT OF SYG'S LETTER TO NETHERLANDS PRIME MINISTER, FORWARDING THE UNCLASSIFIED TEXT. TEXTS OF UNCLASSIFIED ALLIANCE VIEWS AND SYG'S CLASSIFIED LETTER ARE QUOTED BELOW, ESSENTIALLY AS DRAFTED DURING DPC MEETING. SYG INDICATED IS WOULD CLEAN UP THE TEXTS EDITORIALY FOR FORWARDING TO DUTCH GOVERNMENT; SYG WILL RELEASE UNCLASSIFIED TEXT AT 3:00 P.M. ON JUNE 28. MISSION WILL FORWARD FINAL VERSION OF BOTH TEXTS WHEN RECEIVED.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF ALLIANCE VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED FUTURE NETHERLANDS FORCE STRUCTURE. QUOTE:

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PAGE 02 NATO 03595 01 OF 02 272235Z

1. THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF NATO HAS CONSIDERED THE CHANGES PROPOSED IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE NETHERLANDS ARMED FORCES AS COMMUNICATED TO THEM ON 21ST MAY, 1974. THIS COMMUNICATION INITIATED THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION WITHIN

NATO IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES. THE ALLIES HAVE WELCOMED THE DECISION OF THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT TO CONSULT THEM BEFORE REACHING FINAL DECISIONS. THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO STUDY FURTHER THE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH EMANATE FROM THE NATO CONSULTATION AND TO TAKE THESE INTO ACCOUNT WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

2. NATO HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AN INITIAL MILITARY EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSALS BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE. ON THE BASIS OF THIS AND THE OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE, THE ALLIES HAVE COME TO THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONAL JUDGEMENT.

3. THEY CONCLUDE THAT THE NETHERLANDS PROPOSALS HAVE FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS NOT ONLY FOR THE SECURITY OF THE NETHERLANDS, BUT ALSO FOR THE SECURITY OF THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE. THEY NOTE WITH GREAT CONCERN THE GENERAL CONCLUSION OF THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES THAT THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE NETHERLANDS FORCES WOULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE DEFENSE CAPABILITY OF THE ALLIANCE. THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS COMMUNICATED THE MORE DETAILED VIEWS OF THE ALLIANCE ON THE PROPOSED FUTURE FORCE STRUCTURE TO THE NETHERLANDS AUTHORITIES IN A CLASSIFIED FORM.

4. NO NATION CAN ASSURE ITS SECURITY ALONE; COLLECTIVE SECURITY IS A BASIC PRINCIPLE OF THE ALLIANCE. THIS IMPLIES AN ESSENTIAL OBLIGATION FOR EACH COUNTRY TO CONTRIBUTE ITS SHARE TO COMMON DEFENSE; AND ALL COUNTRIES HAVE RECENTLY REAFFIRMED THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACHED TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT FORCES MUST NOT BE REDUCED EXCEPT IN THE CONTEXT OF MBFR.

5. A DECISION BY THE NETHERLANDS TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES IN THE MANNER PROPOSED WOULD LEAVE A GAP IN NATO DEFENSES AND WOULD REQUIRE AN INCREASE IN THE MILITARY AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF OTHER ALLIES. THIS WOULD ALSO UPSET THE PRESENT BALANCE OF FORCES WITHIN NATO. THE ECONOMIC PRESSURES AND COMPETING CLAIMS ON PUBLIC RESOURCES IN THE NETHERLANDS ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM THOSE IN OTHER ALLIED COUNTRIES AND DO NOT  
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PAGE 03 NATO 03595 01 OF 02 272235Z

THEMSELVES PROVIDE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE REDUCTIONS IN FORCES PROPOSED. SUCH REDUCTIONS WOULD MAKE IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT FOR OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ALLIANCE TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THEIR PRESENT FORCES.

6. NOTING THAT THE NETHERLANDS ARE A PROSPEROUS COUNTRY, THE COMMITTEE DREW ATTENTION TO THE DOWNWARD TREND IN TOTAL EXPENDITURE OF THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT ON DEFENSE IN RELATION TO THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT AND THE NATIONAL BUDGET AS A WHOLE, AND TO THE FACT THAT THE PLANNED INCREASE IN EXPENDITURE, 1974 TO 1978, IS EXPECTED TO BE ONE OF THE LOWEST RATES OF INCREASE PLANNED FOR DEFENSE AMONG ALLIANCE MEMBERS. IF THE PRESENT PROPOSALS ARE PURSUED, THEY WILL LEAD TO

REDUCTIONS IN SIZE AND EFFECTIVENESS AND THE NETHERLANDS  
CONTRIBUTION TO NATO WOULD NOT BE COMMENSURATE WITH HER OWN  
PLEDGES TO THE ALLIANCE OR WITH THE RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NATO 03595 02 OF 02 272257Z

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-19

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 3595

7. THEY RE-EMPHASIZED THE OVERRIDING NEED FOR ALL MEMBER  
COUNTRIES TO MAINTAIN THE SOLIDARITY OF THE ALLIANCE, IN  
MILITARY AS WELL AS IN POLITICAL TERMS. IN THIS RESPECT,  
THE DPC HAS NOTED THE ASSURANCES GIVEN BY THE NETHERLANDS  
MINISTER OF DEFENSE TO HIS COLLEAGUES ON 14TH JUNE THAT PLANS  
FOR REDUCTIONS IN THE READY STRENGTH OF THE ARMY WOULD BE  
SUSPENDED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREED POLICY OF THE ALLIANCE,  
UNTIL THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ACHIEVED THE DESIRED RESULTS.

8. THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO CONVEY  
THESE VIEWS TO THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT AND TO URGE THE  
NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT TO TAKE THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE INTO  
SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AND TO RECONSIDER THEIR PROPOSALS  
ACCORDINGLY. END QUOTE.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF SECRETARY GENERAL'S CLASSIFIED LETTER TO THE PRIME  
MINISTER OF THE NETHERLANDS. QUOTE.

1. YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES ARE ALREADY AWARE OF THE  
MILITARY COMMITTEE'S INITIAL EVALUATION OF THE MILITARY  
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PAGE 02 NATO 03595 02 OF 02 272257Z

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED FUTURE STRUCTURE OF THE NETHERLANDS

FORCES WHICH HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE.  
AT THEIR MEETING OF 27TH JUNE, 1974, THE DEFENSE PLANNING  
COMMITTEE TOOK NOTE OF THIS EVALUATION AND ASKED ME TO CONVEY  
THE OVERALL JUDGEMENT OF THE ALLIANCE ON THE REDUCTIONS PROPOSED.

2. THEY CONCLUDED THAT THESE PROPOSALS HAVE FAR-REACHING  
IMPLICATIONS NOT ONLY FOR THE NETHERLANDS ARMED FORCES, BUT ALSO FOR  
THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE. THE COMMITTEE NOTED WITH GREAT CONCERN THE  
GENERAL CONCLUSION OF THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES THAT THE PROPOSED  
CHANGES IN THE NETHERLANDS FORCES WOULD HAVE AN EXTREMELY ADVERSE  
EFFECT ON THE DEFENCE CAPABILITY OF THE ALLIANCE. THOUGH NOTING  
THE INTENTION OF THE NETHERLANDS TO CONTINUE WITH SOME MODERNIZATION  
PROGRAMMES OF THE FORCES, THE COMMITTEE EXPRESSED ITS GRAVEST  
CONCERN AT:

(A) THE PROPOSED REDUCTION OF THE OVERALL NUMBER OF MANOEUVRE  
BATTALIONS, THE REDUCTION IN COMBAT READY BATTALIONS, THE  
DISBANDMENT OF HONEST JOHN BATTERIES AND THE REDUCTION OF  
STOCK LEVELS OF SOME TYPES OF AMMUNITION WOULD REDUCE THE  
CAPABILITY OF THE 1ST NL CORPS TO FULFIL EFFECTIVELY ITS  
ASSIGNED MISSIONS;

(B) THE PROPOSED REDUCTION IN CONSCRIPT SERVICE, WHICH WOULD  
DIMINISH THE COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS OF UNITS MANNED BY  
CONSCRIPTS;

(C) THE ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE DETERRENT VALUE OF NATO'S MARITIME  
FORCES PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELDS OF ANIT-SUBMARINE WARFARE  
AND SURVEILLANCE BY THE PHASING OUT OF UNITS PRIOR TO THEIR  
REPLACEMENT AND THE RETENTION IN SERVICE OF AGEING SHIPS  
AND MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT WITH REDUCING CAPABILITIES OVER  
A PERIOD UP TO THE MID-1980S;

(D) THE PROPOSED DELAY AND THE REDUCTION IN THE REPLACEMENT OF  
OBSOLESCENT AIRCRAFT AND THE FAILURE TO PROVIDE PEACETIME  
REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT FOR THOSE LOST THROUGH NORMAL ATTRITION,  
WHICH WOULD WEAKEN THE AIR CAPABILITIES IN THE CENTRAL REGION;

(E) THE PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL AND DISBANDMENT OF SOME SURFACE-  
TO-AIR MISSILES BATTERIES WOULD OPEN UP GAPS IN NATO'S  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 03595 02 OF 02 272257Z

INTEGRATED AIR DEFENCE BELTS WHICH COULD LEAD TO THE EARLY  
DESTRUCTION OF THE REMAINING AIR DEFENCE UNITS AND ENDANGER  
GROUND FORCES AND STRIKE BASES.

3. IN ADDITION THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE CONCLUDED THAT  
THE OVERALL REDUCTIONS WERE OF SUCH A MAGNITUDE AS TO CAST DOUBT ON  
THE NETHERLANDS ABILITY TO PREVENT A MOST SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN THE

MILITARY CAPABILITIES OF ITS ARMED FORCES. THIS STRIKES DIRECTLY AT  
THE OTHER NATIONS WITH INTERESTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE CENTRAL  
REGION.

4. THE ALLIES REGRET THAT THE NETHERLANDS DO NOT PROPOSE FULLY TO CONFORM WITH THE NATO DECLARATION OF 1968, SINCE THEN REPEATEDLY RE-ENDORSED BY NATO MINISTERS, THAT "THE OVERALL MILITARY CAPABILITY OF NATO SHOULD NOT BE REDUCED EXCEPT AS PART OF A PATTERN OF MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS BALANCED IN SCOPE AND TIMING". THEY BELIEVE THAT UNILATERAL REDUCTIONS SUCH AS THOSE PROPOSED BY THE NETHERLANDS, OR EVEN THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE PLANS FOR SUCH REDUCTIONS, CANNOT BUT BE PREJUDICIAL TO CURRENT MBFR NEGOTIATIONS.

5. THE DECLARATION ON ATLANTIC RELATIONS, SIGNED BY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ON 26TH JUNE, 1974, STATED THAT "MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE CONSIDER THAT THE WILL TO COMBINE THEIR EFFORTS TO ENSURE THEIR COMMON

DEFENCE OBLIGES THEM TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF THEIR FORCES AND THAT EACH SHOULD UNDERTAKE, ACCORDING TO THE ROLE THAT IT HAS ASSUMED IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE ALLIANCE, ITS PROPER SHARE OF THE BURDEN OF MAINTAINING THE SECURITY OF ALL". THE REDUCTIONS IN MILITARY CAPABILITY PROPOSED BY THE NETHERLANDS CANNOT BE RECONCILED WITH EITHER THE TEXT OR THE SPIRIT OF THIS DECLARATION.

6. THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE TOOK THE VIEW THAT THESE DETAILED CRITICISMS SHOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GENERAL RESPONSE OF THE ALLIANCE TO THE PROPOSED REDUCTIONS, WHICH HAS BEEN RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC. THEY ARE ANXIOUS, HOWEVER, THAT YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES SHOULD BE FULLY AWARE OF THE MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS ON WHICH THEIR JUDGEMENT IS BASED.

END QUOTE.  
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PAGE 04 NATO 03595 02 OF 02 272257Z

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